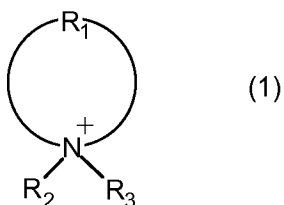


Amendments to the Claims

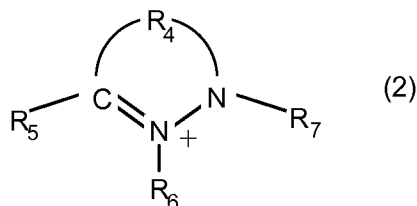
The following list of claims replaces all previous claim listings.

1. (Previously presented) A moderately resistive rubber member comprising a rubber-like elastic material formed through vulcanization of a moderately resistive rubber composition comprising an unvulcanized rubber base and at least one ionic liquid contained in the rubber base, the ionic liquid serving as an electrically conductive material and being a molten salt which is in liquid form at ambient temperature, wherein the ionic liquid is added in an amount of at least 0.1 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the unvulcanized rubber base.

2. (Previously presented) The moderately resistive rubber member according to claim 1, wherein the ionic liquid contains a cationic species selected from the group consisting of cationic species represented by the following formulas (1) through (4):

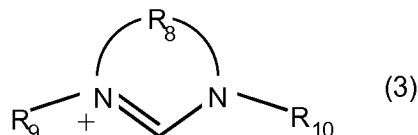


(wherein R_1 represents a C4-C10 hydrocarbon group; each of R_2 and R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, or a C1-C8 alkyl group; which R_1 , R_2 or R_3 may contain a hetero atom; and, when the nitrogen atom has a double bond, R_3 is absent);

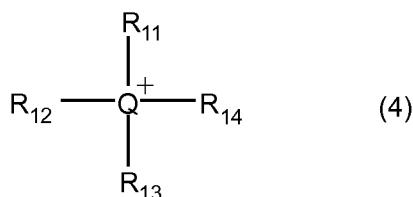


(wherein R_4 represents a C2-C10 hydrocarbon group, and each of R_5 , R_6 , and R_7 represents a

hydrogen atom, or a C1-C8 alkyl group, which R₄, R₅, R₆ or R₇ may contain a hetero atom);



(wherein R₈ represents a C2-C10 hydrocarbon group, and each of R₉ and R₁₀ represents a hydrogen atom, or a C1-C8 alkyl group, which R₈, R₉, or R₁₀ may contain a hetero atom); and



(wherein Q represents a nitrogen atom, a phosphorus atom, or a sulfur atom; each of R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, and R₁₄ represents a hydrogen atom, or a C1-C8 alkyl group, which R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃ or R₁₄ may contain a hetero atom; and, when Q is a sulfur atom, R₁₁ is absent).

3. (Previously presented) The moderately resistive rubber member according to claim 1, wherein the ionic liquid contains an anionic species selected from among AlCl₄⁻, Al₂Cl₇⁻, NO₃⁻, BF₄⁻, PF₆⁻, CH₃COO⁻, CF₃COO⁻, CF₃SO₃⁻, (CF₃SO₂)₂N⁻, (CF₃SO₂)₃C⁻, AsF₆⁻, SbF₆⁻, F(HF)_n⁻, CF₃CF₂CF₂CF₂SO₃⁻, (CF₃CF₂SO₂)₂N⁻, and CF₃CF₂CF₂COO⁻.

4. (Canceled)

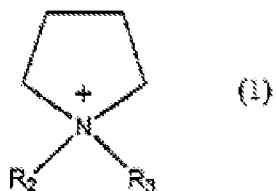
5. (Previously presented) The moderately resistive rubber member according to claim 1, which has a volume resistivity of 1 × 10³ to 1 × 10⁹ Ω·cm.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (New) The moderately resistive rubber member according to claim 1, wherein the ionic liquid contains a cationic species selected from the group consisting of an imidazolium ion, a pyridinium ion and a cationic species represented by the following formula (1):

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First Named Inventor: Hidetoshi AOKI



wherein each of R_2 and R_3 represents a hydrogen atom or a C1-C8 alkyl group.